

REPOSITORY DOE-FORRESTAL

COLLECTION MARKET FILES

BOX No. 6 of 6

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FOLDER MARSHALLESE AGREEMENT  
MARSHALLESE CURRENT WORK

OUTLINE FOR DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION  
AND  
THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS  
REGARDING MEDICAL CARE OF THE RONGELAP AND UTIRIK PEOPLE

The United States Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA), formerly AEC, has for more than 20 years conducted a program of medical surveillance of the people of Rongelap and Utirik that were exposed to fallout from a weapons test in 1954. In the course of this activity, and with the knowledge and consent of the Trust Territory of the Pacific (TTPI), the ERDA medical teams have provided limited medical care for all of the people of Rongelap and Utirik. The ERDA intends to continue this program provided this can be achieved with the consent of the TTPI and the people of Utirik and Rongelap.

The people of Utirik and Rongelap, independently, have recently indicated a desire for changes in the type of medical care under the ERDA program. Specifically, they have requested that ERDA expands and improves medical care of all the people on their islands.

It is recognized by the U.S. (ERDA) that general medical care of the people of the Marshall Islands is a responsibility of the Administration of the TTPI. At the same time, it appears that the request for extended medical care under the ERDA program stems from a change in the perception on the part of the people of Utirik and Rongelap of the manner and extent to which past ERDA activities have affected their lives psychologically, socially, and economically. It appears, therefore, to be in the interest of both the TTPI and the U.S. (ERDA) to explore ways in which these perceived needs can best be met by both parties within framework of their respective responsibilities.

For the purpose of the discussion between the TTPI and the U.S. (ERDA) it is proposed that the U.S. (ERDA) is prepared to assist the TTPI in the discharge of its health care responsibilities to the people

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of Rongelap and Utirik. It is agreed that this assistance will be provided in response to Trust Territory requests and may include the following:

- a. ERDA will invite TTPI medical personnel (medical officers, nurses, health aides, technicians) to participate in the ERDA medical visits in order to facilitate expanded programs such as well baby clinics, family planning, etc., and will assist with logistic support of these activities.
- b. ERDA will assist in arranging for additional U.S. medical doctors to participate in the ERDA medical team visits, as may be required to assist the TTPI in providing general medical care to the people of Rongelap and Utirik.
- c. ERDA will, to the extent operationally feasible, extend the duration of its medical team visits to Rongelap and Utirik to accommodate the needs of the Trust Territory medical program.